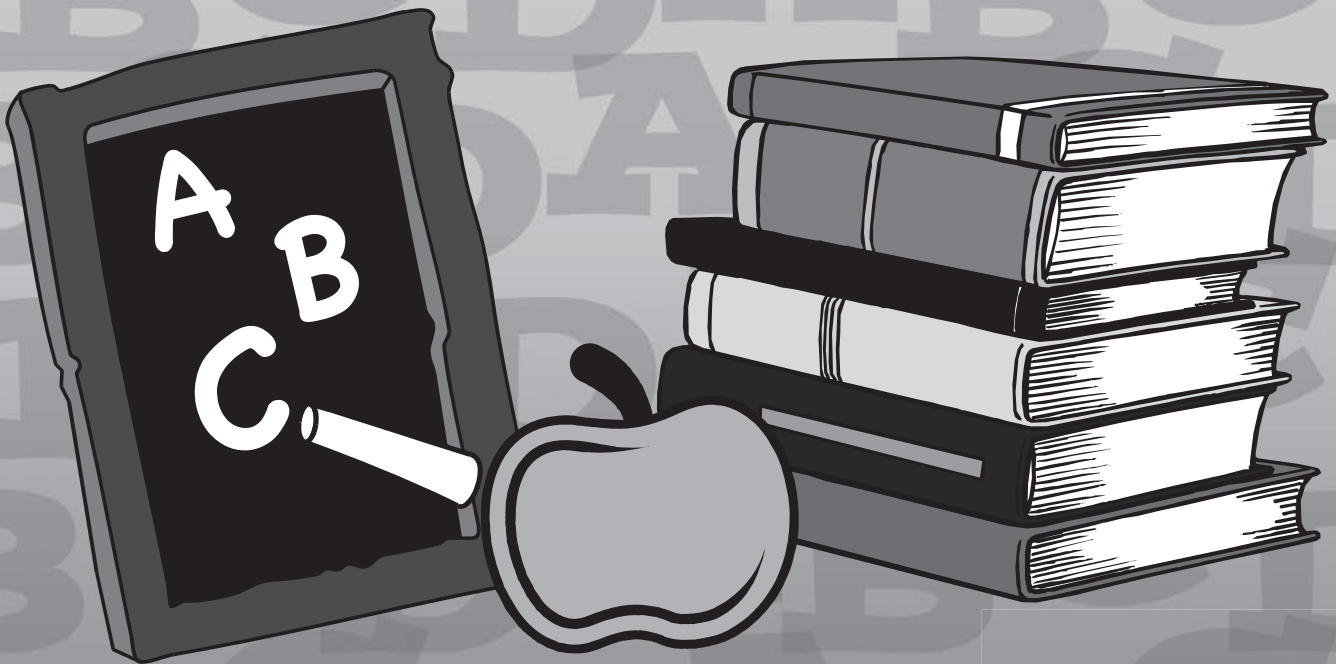




# PRACTICE EXERCISES

META-PR 2017



**English**

Grade  
**8**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_



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## Instrucciones

Antes de empezar los ejercicios, tu maestro o maestra te ayudará a contestar unos ejemplos. Los ejemplos son para que entiendas lo que tienes que hacer una vez comiences los ejercicios. También te indicará cómo ennegrecer los círculos de la hoja de contestaciones para que tu contestación sea válida. Sigue todas las sugerencias y lee con mucha atención.

A continuación verás un ejemplo de la hoja de contestaciones y lo que debes hacer para contestar.

### Instrucciones para ennegrecer las respuestas de preguntas de selección múltiple

- Usa lápiz núm. 2 solamente.
- No uses lápiz mecánico, tinta ni bolígrafo.
- Llena el círculo por completo.
- Borra por completo cualquier respuesta que desees cambiar.
- No hagas marcas o líneas en esta hoja.

**Incorrecto**

**Incorrecto**

**Correcto**

### Instrucciones para contestar las preguntas de respuesta extendida

- Usa lápiz solamente.
- No uses lápiz mecánico, tinta ni bolígrafo.
- Asegúrate de contestar todas las partes de la pregunta.
- Escribe solamente dentro del recuadro.

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# English

## Samples

These are the Practice Questions of the META-PR for Grade 8. With these questions, you will show how well you can understand and use English.

The practice questions include the following sections: Listening, Reading, and Writing/Language. For each question, mark the letter of the correct answer on your answer sheet. Look at sample question A.

**A** Choose the word that belongs in the blank.

Yesterday, I \_\_\_\_\_ my backpack at school.

- A leave
- B leaves
- C leaving
- \*D left

The correct answer is **D, left**. On your answer sheet, you can see that **D** is filled in.

Now do the next sample on your own. Read the question and choose the correct answer. Then, mark the letter of the correct answer on your answer sheet.

**B** The baseball game was very exciting. My brother and I lost our voices from yelling. The game was decided in the final inning. Our team won by a score of 5-4!

Which sentence from this paragraph is an **OPINION**?

- A “The baseball game was very exciting.”
- B “My brother and I lost our voices from yelling.”
- C “The game was decided in the final inning.”
- D “Our team won by a score of 5-4!”

The correct answer is **A, The baseball game was very exciting**. The circle for **A** should be filled in on your answer sheet.



**STOP**

**Directions:** With these practice questions, you will show how well you can understand spoken English. Listen carefully. Then, mark the letter of the correct answer on your answer sheet.

- 1** Which question does the sentence **BEST** answer?
- A How is a fancy gift made?
  - B Which store sells gift bags for boys?
  - C Who would want to receive a noisy gift?
  - D What is a gift idea for my younger sister?
- 2** Which statement is **COMPLETELY TRUE** according to the conversation you just listened to?
- A Lisa drinks a lot of coffee.
  - B Pedro does not like coffee.
  - C Lisa and Pedro are at a restaurant.
  - D Pedro is not having coffee.
- 3** Based on the story, do you think that Marissa will visit New York City some day?
- A probably, because Juliana has made it sound interesting
  - B no, because Juliana says some of the people are not friendly
  - C probably, because Juliana has invited her to visit
  - D no, because Amsterdam Avenue is too long

- 4** Why does Marissa **MOST LIKELY** ask so many questions about New York City?
- A She is curious about people from France and México.
  - B She has never been there.
  - C She wants to know if it is like Puerto Rico.
  - D She wants to move there.
- 5** From the way that Juliana talks about the people on Amsterdam Avenue, what can the listener **ASSUME** about Juliana?
- A She misses Puerto Rico.
  - B She is unhappy she moved to New York City.
  - C She wants to move to France.
  - D She prefers to live in Manhattan.



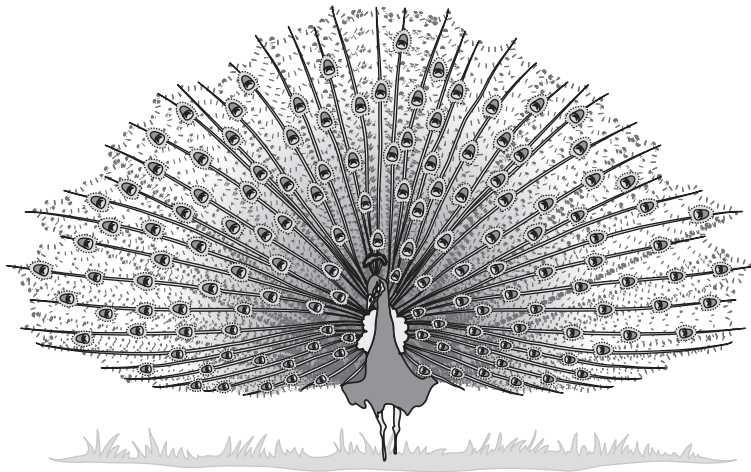
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**Directions:** With these practice questions, you will show how well you can read and understand written English. For each question, mark the letter of the correct answer on your answer sheet.

## The Peacock



- 1                    The proud peacock struts across the grass.  
                      Walking slowly, its head held high,  
                      Flaunting its eye-catching plumage for all to see.
- 2                    Suddenly the tail becomes a stunning shimmering fan,  
                      Spreading out in a distinctive arc  
                      And sweeping to the ground on each side.
- 3                    Blue, gold, and red eyes stare slyly from the fan,  
                      Seemingly watching all about.  
Ever vigilant, the peacock is wary of others around him.
- 4                    As the fanned feathers shake, they emit a sound.  
                      A low-pitched sound  
                      That the human ear can never hear.



5

Then comes squawk after shrill squawk,  
As the peacock explores,  
Curious to discover what is out there.

**6** In stanza 2, what does the author mean by describing the peacock's tail as stunning?

- A The tail's arc is surprisingly wide.
- B The tail looks particularly beautiful.
- C The tail surprises other birds with its shimmer.
- D The tail's width is so big that it bumps anything nearby.

**7** Based on information provided in stanza 4, the reader can conclude that peacocks —

- A can create bright visual displays to impress people.
- B have tail feathers with many eyes to look around.
- C shake their feathers to make them shimmer.
- D can create sounds that only they can hear.

**8** What is the main idea of stanza 4?

- A The peacock's feathers make a subtle sound.
- B The peacock squawks to call attention to its feathers.
- C The peacock displays its feathers in a shimmering arc.
- D The peacock's feathers have special meaning when shaken.

**9** In stanza 5, the author states that peacocks make loud sounds —

- A because they cannot see over the tall grass.
- B by shaking their feathers.
- C when they look around carefully.
- D as a sign of their curiosity.



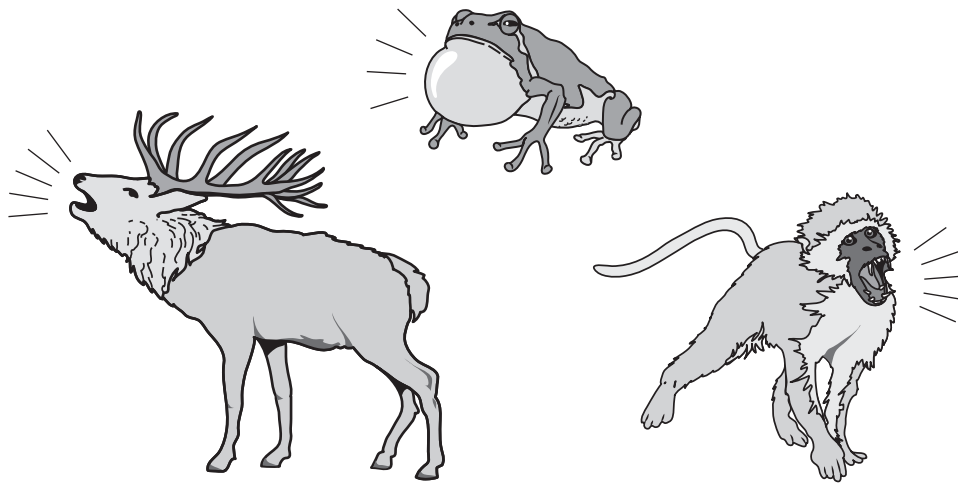
- 10** The author **MOST LIKELY** uses short stanzas in the poem because —
- A** it makes the poem easier to read.
  - B** the poem describes a short creature.
  - C** each stanza focuses on one aspect of the peacock.
  - D** brief stanzas convey a theme more concisely.

**GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE AND CONTINUE WORKING.**



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## Animal Communication



1 The roar of a lion, the faint hint of a scent, and the flash of a brightly colored wing are all means of communication. They are, in essence, signals produced by one individual—the signaler—and they carry information about the state of the signaler to another individual receiving it—the recipient. The meaning of the signal to the recipient depends on the recipient’s status. To a neighboring male bird, the territorial song of a male of the same species reveals the presence of a rival who possibly presents a challenge. To an unmated female, however, the same song indicates a potential mate, while a mated female ignores it.

2 One major function of animal communication is to bring males and females together. Courtship often involves complex displays in which one or both partners pose or call to each other. Such displays enable partners to learn to recognize each other and to assess each other’s suitability as mates. Communication is also important in marking territorial boundaries and defending against attacks by rivals or predators. When mammals feel threatened, their alarm calls are often low-pitched roars or screams, whereas birds use various kinds of alarm calls. Vervet monkeys vary their alarm calls to indicate the presence of enemies, like snakes, eagles, and leopards.

3 The form of the animal communication signals differs depending on the information that has to be communicated, the distance over which it has to travel, and the habitat of the animals concerned.

4 Chemical signals depend on the senses of smell and taste. Wind currents carry these signals, and they can travel long distances. They may be used for long-term signaling, such as when mammals like hyenas and deer mark their territory.

5 Acoustic signals are signals that other animals can hear. They can change rapidly in pitch and intensity, and they may be used to convey a wide range of information. The intensity of the signal and the distance it travels are enhanced by some ingenious body parts. Toads and frogs, for example, have loose pieces of skin around their mouths. It is these loose folds of skin that help them produce loud sounds.

6 Visual signals are used by many animals. They can be turned on and off rapidly, but generally, they can be used only in the daytime and they are easily blocked by objects, such as trees. Rabbits and deer use flashes of their tails to warn others of approaching danger. The male fiddler crab has one enlarged, brightly colored claw that it waves in a characteristic way to attract females.

7 Studying animal communication helps provide an insight into the inner worlds of animals. The study of animal communication is also useful for making effective decisions about protecting threatened and endangered species.

- 11** In paragraph 2, what does the word Courtship mean?
- A the exchange of ideas or information
  - B the appropriateness of a certain action
  - C the behavior of animals that leads to mating
  - D the amount of time spent serving on a legal case

- 12** What do hyenas and deer have in common?
- A body parts to produce loud sounds
  - B body fluids to mark their territories
  - C body fluids to make alarm calls
  - D body parts to attract females

- 13** Loose pieces of skin around the mouths of toads and frogs enable them to —
- A warn enemies.
  - B attract females.
  - C mark territories.
  - D make loud noises.



- 14** According to the reading selection, a rabbit would **MOST LIKELY** flash its tail in order to —
- A attract mates.
  - B warn of danger.
  - C escape predators.
  - D produce a chemical signal.

- 15** Why does the fiddler crab wave its enlarged claw?
- A to attract females
  - B to alert enemies
  - C to eat its dinner
  - D to defend itself

- 16** A. Why did the author write the reading selection?

B. Write **TWO** sentences from the reading selection to support your answer.

**Remember to answer all parts of the question in the space provided.**

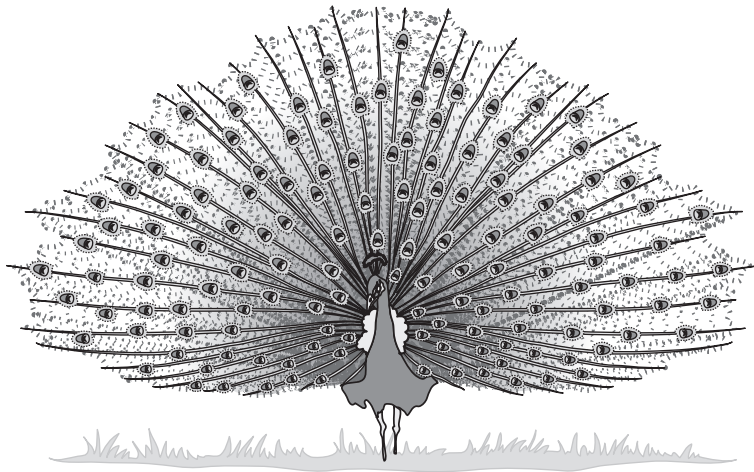
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**Directions:** Read “The Peacock” and “Animal Communication” again. Then answer questions 17 and 18 about both reading selections.

## The Peacock



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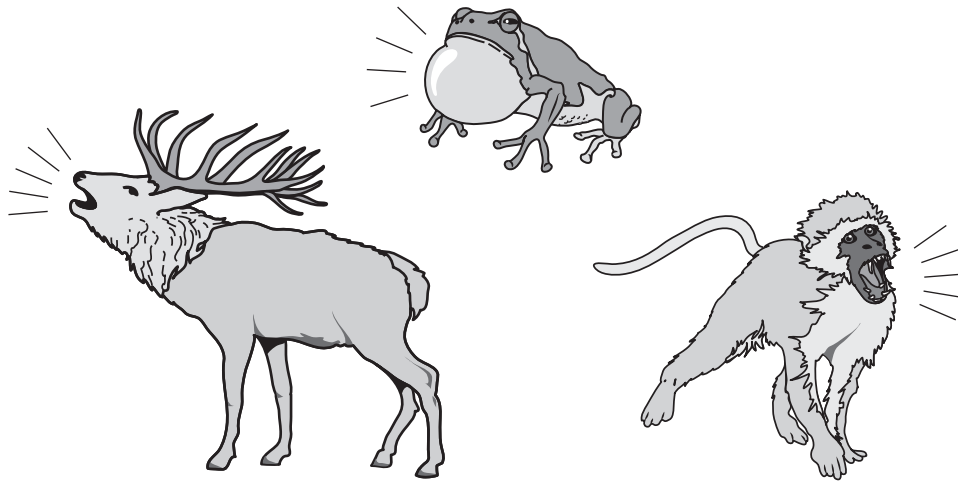


5

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## Animal Communication



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**17** BOTH “The Peacock” and “Animal Communication” discuss —

- A one specific animal.
- B signals animals use.
- C domestic animals.
- D animal nutrition.

**18** The illustrations help the reader better understand “The Peacock” and “Animal Communication” by showing —

- A how large the animals are.
- B which animals are mammals.
- C the number of animals in the reading selections.
- D the animals mentioned in the reading selections.



**Directions:** With these practice questions, you will show how well you understand how to write in English. For each question, mark the letter of the correct answer on your answer sheet.

**19** Read the following sentence.

Last week, Lucas \_\_\_\_\_ elected captain of the baseball team.

Which word correctly completes the sentence?

- A was
- B been
- C has
- D were

**20** Read the following sentence.

Teresa climbed the ladder all the way to the top.

In this sentence, what part of speech is the word climbed?

- A a noun
- B a conjunction
- C an adjective
- D a verb

**21** Read the following sentence.

Selena couldn't account for the time she'd spent at the beach that afternoon.

In which sentence does the word account have the SAME meaning as in the sentence above?

- A I have ten dollars in my savings account.
- B Being famous is of little account to her father.
- C No one can account for Eric's actions.
- D The waitress gave us an account of our order.

- 22** Imagine you are one of the people in the picture, practicing a play. Write a paragraph with at least **THREE** sentences about what is happening in the picture. Use words to show time or order, such as “first,” “next,” and “last,” in your paragraph.

Use this checklist to help you think about and organize your response.

- Remember to write about what you see in the picture.
- Use details and complete sentences in your writing.
- Use appropriate capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

Write your response in the space provided.



**23** Read the following sentences.

Tania enjoys hiking in the forest.  
She also enjoys the mountains.

**Which revision BEST combines these two sentences?**

- A Tania enjoys hiking in the forest, she also enjoys the mountains.
- B Tania enjoys hiking in the forest and the mountains.
- C Since Tania enjoys hiking in the forest, she enjoys the mountains too.
- D Hiking in the forest and the mountains Tania enjoys also.

**24** Read the following sentences.

Esteban ran to answer the doorbell. It was his Uncle Paul and Aunt Isabel.

**Which revision BEST combines these two sentences?**

- A Esteban ran to answer the doorbell, while it was his Uncle Paul and Aunt Isabel.
- B Esteban ran to answer the doorbell, yet it was his Uncle Paul and Aunt Isabel.
- C Esteban ran to answer the doorbell, and it was his Uncle Paul and Aunt Isabel.
- D Esteban ran to answer the doorbell, although it was his Uncle Paul and Aunt Isabel.

**25** Which sentence shows the correct use of a comma?

- A The duck is in the water, it is moving slowly.
- B Belinda, and Monica will be here later.
- C Please bring a towel, a hat, and, sunglasses.
- D Mr. Solís, when is the homework due?

**26** Which sentence shows the correct use of an editing mark to insert a word?

- A Let's feed the fish in <sup>the</sup><sub>^</sub> aquarium.
- B Let's feed the fish in (the) aquarium.
- C Let's feed the fish in (insert the) aquarium.
- D Let's feed the fish in the<sub>^</sub> aquarium.

Read the following selection and answer questions 27 and 28.

(1) Javier and his family lives near a golf course. (2) Golf balls land near their house all the time. (3) Neither Javier's mother nor his father likes it when golf balls breek their windows.

- 27** What is the correct way to write sentence 1?
- A Javier and his family lived near a golf course.
  - B Javier and his family live near a golf course.
  - C Javier and his family will live near a golf course.
  - D Javier and his family used to live near a golf course.

- 28** Which sentence shows the correct editing marks to fix the error in sentence 3?
- A Neither Javier's mother nor his father likes it when golf balls <sup>lc</sup>breek their windows.
  - B Neither Javier's mother nor his father likes it when golf balls breek their windows.
  - C Neither Javier's mother nor his father likes it when golf balls breek<sup>SP</sup> their windows.
  - D Neither Javier's mother nor his father likes it when golf balls ~~breek~~ their windows.

